

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Withdrawn) An isolated rpo B promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 1, SEQ ID NO: 9, and SEQ ID NO: 11.

2. (Withdrawn) An isolated atpB promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 2, SEQ ID NO: 4, SEQ ID NO: 6, and SEQ ID NO: 8.

3. (Withdrawn) An isolated clpP promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 13, SEQ ID NO: 14, SEQ ID NO: 15, SEQ ID NO: 16, SEQ ID NO: 17, SEQ ID NO: 18, SEQ ID NO: 19, SEQ ID NO: 20, SEQ ID NO: 21, SEQ ID NO: 22, SEQ ID NO: 24, SEQ ID NO: 25, SEQ ID NO: 26, and SEQ ID NO 31.

4. (Withdrawn) An isolated 16SrDNA promoter element and homologues thereof for enhancing production of at least one exogenous protein of interest in the plastids of plant cells, selected from the group of promoter elements encoded by SEQ ID NO: 28 and SEQ ID NO: 29.

5. (Currently Amended) A DNA construct for stably transforming the plastids of higher plants, comprising:

- a) a transcription unit encoding at least one exogenous protein of interest; and
- b) a ~~first~~-NEP promoter and a ~~second~~-PEP promoter in tandem, operably linked to said transcription unit, ~~and~~
- ~~e)~~ wherein expression of said transcription unit ~~being~~ is regulated by said promoters.

6. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The DNA construct according to claim 5, wherein said NEP promoter is clpP-111 and said PEP promoter is Prn-~~114~~.

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The DNA construct according to claim 5, wherein said NEP promoter is clpP-53 and said PEP promoter is Prn-~~114~~.

8. (New) The DNA construct according to claim 6, wherein said Prn has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.

9. (New) The DNA construct according to claim 7, wherein said Prn has the sequence of SEQ ID NO: 32.